



Rocky Mountain  
Remediation Services, L.L.C.  
... protecting the environment

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 18, 1995

5400.1

TO: L. J. Peterson-Wright, OU7 Projects, Bldg. 080, X8553

FROM: *M.B. Murdock*  
M. B. Murdock, Ecology, Bldg. T130B, X3560

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SUBJECT: PREBLE'S MEADOW JUMPING MOUSE TRAPPING. AND THREATENED AND  
ENDANGERED SPECIES AND MIGRATORY BIRD SURVEY RESULTS AT  
OPERABLE UNIT 7 LEACHATE COLLECTION SYSTEM INSTALLATION SITE -  
MBM - 102- 95

*MBM  
10/24/95*

In late September 1995, the Operable Unit 7 (OU7) Project requested a threatened and endangered species assessment for the Leachate Collection System installation site at the inlet end of the Present Landfill Pond. This assessment was to specifically include a Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse (Mouse) trapping effort if appropriate.

The onsite Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse experts determined that in addition to the Landfill Pond being in possible Mouse habitat, the willow thicket/pondside vegetation complex at the site provided appropriate habitat for the Mouse. The habitat is small in extent (less than 3/4 hectare), and isolated from similar habitat and known populations of the Mouse, but closely resembles other pondside areas where the Mouse is found at Rocky Flats. The onsite experts recommended a trapping effort be made at the site.

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Interim Guidelines indicate no trapping "counts" after September 1 of a given year, however, those guidelines were based on sketchy data from 1994. Findings from current trapping efforts in 1995 by the Pawnee Natural History Society (PNHS), and by RMRS Ecologists conducted throughout September indicated that the Mouse was still active, and captures of the Mouse were common through the end of September. The OU7 trapping was conducted by RMRS Ecologists on October 3, 4, 5, and 10. PNHS ecologists trapping in other portions of the Walnut Creek drainage, concurrently with the OU7 trapping effort, continued capturing young Preble's Meadow Jumping Mice, and were still getting occasional captures as late as mid-October. After 400 trap-nights within the appropriate habitat, no Preble's Meadow Jumping Mice were captured at the OU7 work site. Except that trapping occurred after September 1, the OU7 trapping effort followed the USFWS protocol. The small mammal population in the area appears quite healthy, with approximately 35 to 60 percent trap success nightly during the trapping effort.

Due to the limited area to be disturbed by construction of the Leachate Collection System, and the fact that no Preble's Meadow Jumping Mice were captured in the planned work area, Ecology staff cannot identify adverse impacts that may affect the Mouse due to the project. Although the work area is in wetlands, no Ute Ladies'-tresses or other species of concern were found within

the work area. No migratory birds nests will be affected by construction. Ecology therefore gives clearance to proceed under Procedures 1-D06-EPR-END.04 and 1-G98-EPR-END.04, and in accordance with DOE, RFFO Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse Interim Policy, Rev.4. A final migratory bird clearance will be required within two weeks of the start of construction.

OU7 Project personnel should be aware that this Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse trapping effort was specific only to the Leachate Collection System Project, and was not designed or intended to clear any other OU7 activity areas for the Mouse. Ecology personnel strongly recommend that a more extensive trapping effort be undertaken starting in the spring of 1996 after the Mouse emerges from hibernation. All areas of possible Preble's Meadow Jumping Mouse habitat should be surveyed prior to destruction of the habitat by OU7 remediation activities.

Should you have comments or require further information, please call me at extension 3560.

MBM:mbm

cc:

C. S. Evans

J. D. Krause

L. E. Woods

ERPD Records File (2) ✓

